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1324 "P" Street

Neubert

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arts in education, that arts in so many ways become an important part of the university environment," Neubert said.

On a national level, the recession has affected the art world dramatically.

According to dealers with whom Neubert had spoken, "there has been a terrific drop in the purchase of contemporary art," especially among "marginal collectors that are kind of drawn into the hysteria of the art market," he said.

For example, in the last two major sales at Sotheby's and Christie's auction houses, half of the works on the auction block did not get expected prices or match any record, Neubert said.

But such trends are not only because of the recession, Neubert said. Instead, he said that "some extraordinary sales" in the past greatly inflated art prices and caused a flooding of the art market.

For example, when one Van Gogh work sold for a certain astronomical price, many people thought all Van Goghs would match or top that. The fall in prices now is a case of the market settling down again, Neubert said.

“Corporations) are being more conservative and . . . less willing to give money and support of the arts right now.”

Neubert, director Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

This trend in the art market does not stand to affect Sheldon very much, Neubert said. For one thing, the kind of works Sheldon would acquire "are pretty stable," he said.

The recession itself may have nothing to do with Sheldon's ability to obtain art, Neubert said.

"I mean, a Jackson Pollock is going to be a multi-million dollar painting," he said. "We don't have multi-million dollars."

But they might be able to have a multi-million dollar painting donated. This, in fact, is one area in which the recession might help the gallery, thanks to what Neubert called "a generous tax deduction for works of art" this year.

In the past, a person who bought a painting for \$10,000 and sold it for \$50,000 could deduct that amount. But the 1986 tax laws restricted that deduction to the original purchase price, Neubert said.

In 1991, however, "there's going to be a sort of open window to allow people to donate, at market value, the

true value of those works," Neubert said.

But Neubert warned against the belief that the recession would be a windfall for the Sheldon.

While some painting or sculpture may be more available at more attractive prices, he said, the recession will also reduce interest on the funds available. There will be less money to give.

According to Neubert, Sheldon serves as an enormous asset to the university, besides the monetary value of "hundreds and millions" of its collection.

"It's one of the real, real gems of this university," he said. "You think of great universities — Harvard, Stanford. This collection is one of the few things that can measure up to the best."

The gallery is free to the public — a policy that will not change. Furthermore, the cultural amenities of a community are an important factor in a corporation's decision to relocate or expand there, he said.

To this end, the Nebraska Art Association, Sheldon's membership organization, contains Development and Business and Corporate Membership Committees to help plan strategies for support. Neubert said that these committees already have talked about the issues involved in the recession.

Dealers and museum officials on the coasts may be worried about the recession, but Neubert has a more experienced attitude, having faced difficult economic times in his career.

After the Vietnam War ended, the port of Oakland, Calif., where Neubert worked, experienced a 50 percent cutback in a two-month period. California's Proposition 13 — a budget measure similar to Nebraska's defeated 2 percent spending lid initiative — also adversely affected Neubert's work as a museum administrator.

Such experiences have left Neubert ready for any effects the recession may have on Sheldon.

"Frightened? No. Alarmed, concerned, cognizant and thinking of ways to try and make up for it? Sure. That's my job," Neubert said. "I'm not Pollyanna and I'm not going to hide my head in the sand . . . I'm going to take a pragmatic, realistic strategy in the situation."

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Brian Shellito/Daily Nebraskan

Kinison

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ping Network and the quality of the merchandise one can purchase over the channel.

"All the shit you couldn't win at the fair," he cackled.

Kinison also played the piano

and sang a parody of Elton John for his interruption of Kinison at a music award ceremony. Kinison's ballad to Elton John spoke of John's homosexuality.

Most of this part of the concert isn't printable, but as a sample: "I (Kinison) just cannot imagine walking up to a beautiful girl and thinking, 'Wonder if she has a brother.'"

Obviously, Kinison's self-proclaimed "family-style" entertainment was not, unless you are a member of the Manson family.

The former evangelist was dressed in black with a black trench coat. The long-haired, balding comedian looked like he had enjoyed eating instead of taking the drugs and alcohol he abused in the past.

Opening comedian Carl Lebow did a 30-minute monologue. He attacked many of the same topics as Kinison — homosexuality and women. As an opening act, he did a good job without competing with Kinison.

In all honesty, Kinison's humor was rude and offensive, but it was done in the spirit of being funny and making people laugh. He reached his rudest when he told the audience he knew the only true aphrodisiacs — money and jewelry. Those can get a person into new and interesting sexual positions. "If you don't believe me, offer your girlfriend \$500," he said.

Kinison also attacked gay men again with, "I'd bet there are a lot of heterosexual men out there who blame homosexual men for spreading the AIDS virus throughout the country."

Lesbians were not neglected by Kinison. He said he learned his oral sex technique from a couple of ladies. "Why not? We used Indians to track other Indians." He went on to say he hoped there were no lesbians out front protesting his concert, because he respected their knowledge.

Prior to the concert, members of Queer Nation Nebraska stood outside with banners that carried slogans like, "Anti-women, anti-gay, Sam Kinison go away."

His reply: "With all of the shit going on in the world, I'm the threat."

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